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NO. 360
JUNE
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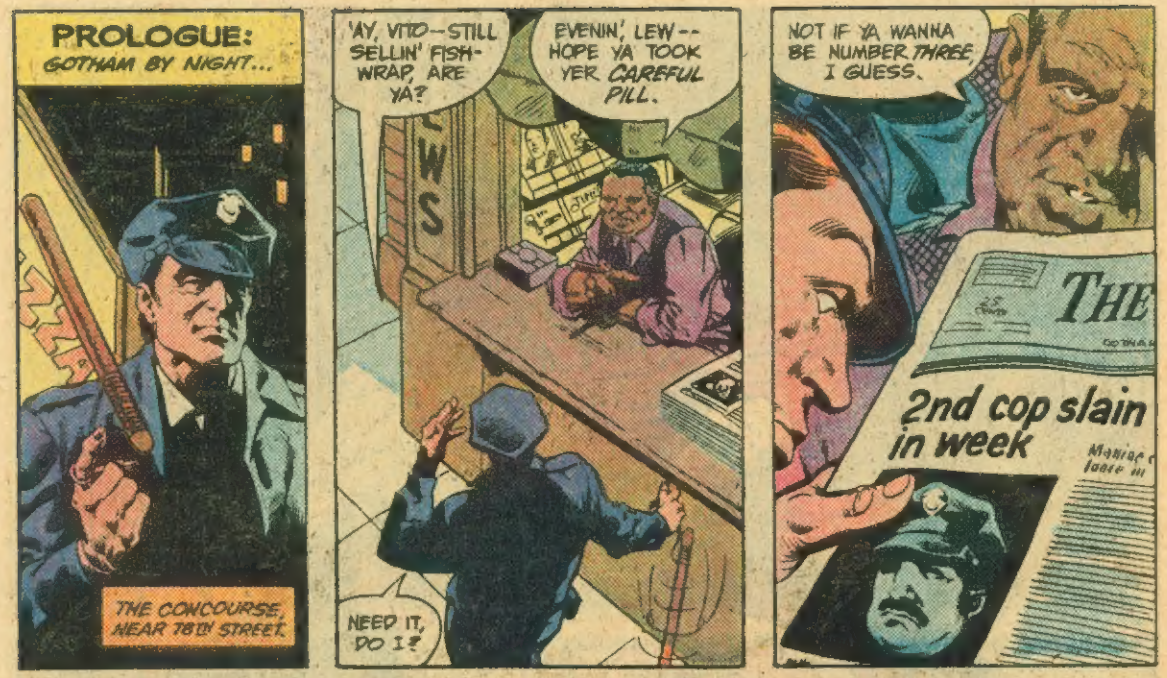
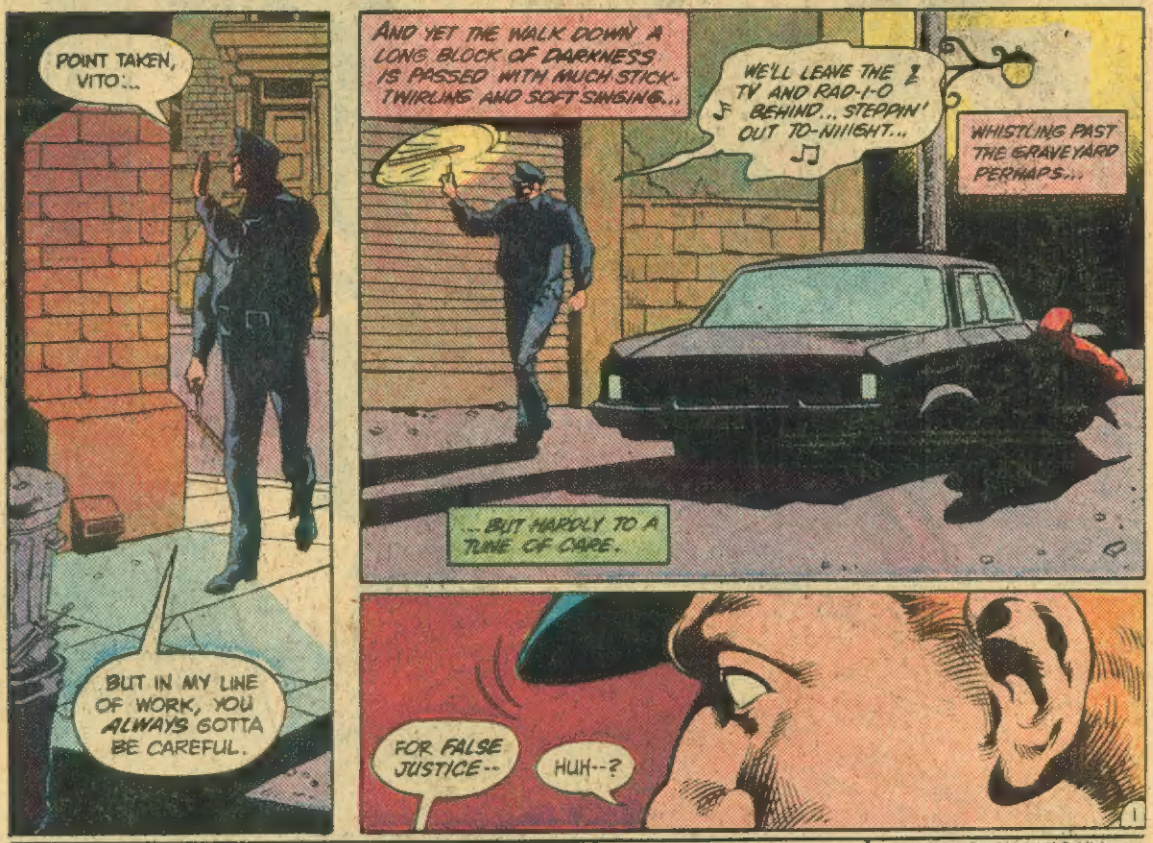
BATMAN
HANNIGAN & GIORDANO
WHERE THE ACTION IS!
SOMEWHERE IN THE SHADOWS STALKS...
THE SAVAGE SKULL!


PROLOGUE:
GOTHAM BY NIGHT...
THE CONCOURSE, NEAR 78TH STREET.
'AY, VITO--STILL SELLIN' FISH-WRAP, ARE YA?
EVENIN', LEW--HOPE YA TOOK YER CAREFUL PILL.
NEED IT, DO I?
NOT IF YA WANNA BE NUMBER THREE, I GUESS.
2nd cop slain in week


POINT TAKEN, VITO...
BUT IN MY LINE OF WORK, YOU ALWAYS GOTTA BE CAREFUL.
AND YET THE WALK DOWN A LONG BLOCK OF DARKNESS IS PASSED WITH MUCH STICK-TWIRLING AND SOFT SINGING...
WE'LL LEAVE THE TV AND RAD-I-O BEHIND... STEPPIN' OUT TO-NIIIGHT...
WHISTLING PAST THE GRAVEYARD PERHAPS...
...BUT HARDLY TO A TUNE OF CARE.
FOR FALSE JUSTICE--
HUH--?

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YOU'RE GONNA PAY-- EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU'S GONNA PAY!
KLAKT
UHN--!
SWOKK
A CAR--?!
CHUK
THAT GUY HAD A KNIFE!
OH MY GOD-- IT'S A COP.
HE STABBED A COP!
NUMBER THREE.
3

MORNING IN THE BATCAVE...
NOW, JASON-- RELEASE!
PERFECT TIMING, LAD!
MORE THAN PERFECT, BATMAN-- IT WAS AWESOME.
ONLY A MONTH OF PRACTICE TOGETHER-- AND WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM!
WELL... LET'S NOT JUMP THE GUN, JAY...
BUT WE'RE ALREADY AS GOOD AS THE FLYING TODDS EVER WERE!
IN FACT, WE MIGHT EVEN BE BETTER THAN MY--
-- MY... MOM... AND DAD...
EASY, JAY-- IT'S ONLY BEEN A MONTH SINCE... SINCE YOU LEFT THE CIRCUS.
I KNOW IT'S STILL HARD FOR YOU... AND THE MEMORIES ARE BOUND TO --
--AHEM-- IF I MAY INTRUDE, SIR...?
4

CONTINUED ON 3½" PAGE FOLLOWING.

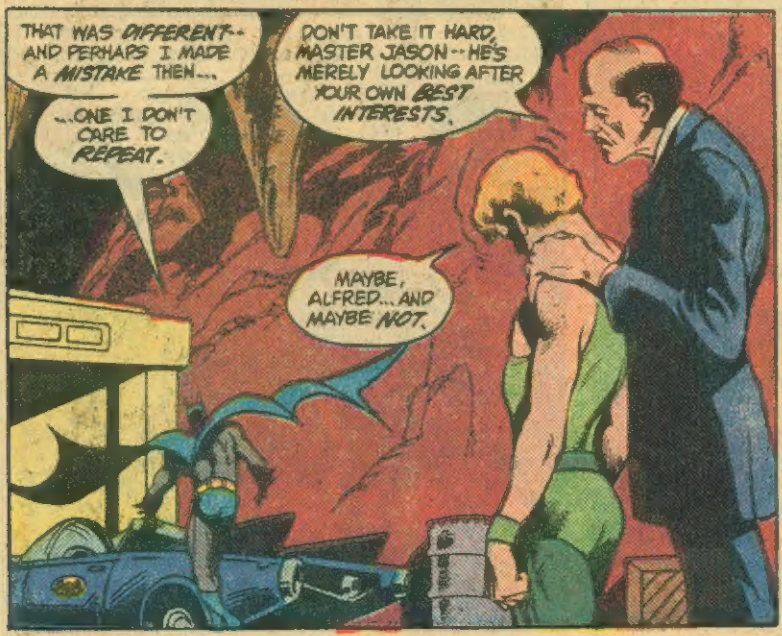
IN VIEW OF YOUR NIGHT'S PATROL, SIR -- FOLLOWED BY YOUR WORKOUT WITH MASTER JASON -- I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WELL BE FAMISHED, AND TOOK THE LIBERTY OF PREPARING A BREAKFAST TABLE RIGHT HERE IN THE BATCAVE.
AS A THINKER, ALFRED, YOU'RE AN ACE.
NOW LET'S SAMPLE YOUR COOKING.
WITH THE AWKWARD MOMENT THUS DEFTLY BROKEN, JASON REMAINS NEVERTHELESS REMOTE -- WHILE BRUCE WAYNE FROWNS OVER THE MORNING'S HEADLINE...
"THIRD COP CLINGS TO LIFE" -- 78TH STREET, AND I WAS IN THE BOWERY LAST NIGHT.
BAD LUCK AGAIN -- I ALWAYS SEEM TO BE IN THE WRONG PART OF TOWN WHEN HE STRIKES...
BZZZT
THE SPECIAL LINE, SIR -- IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A CALL FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON.
YES, JIM... I SEE... OF COURSE.
THANK YOU, BATMAN -- I KNOW THIS SORT OF THING IS A LITTLE FOREIGN TO YOUR USUAL STYLE...
DRASTIC SITUATIONS DICTATE STYLE, JIM -- I'LL SEE YOU SOON.
NEITHER SULLEN MIEN NOR MUG OF COCOA CAN CONCEAL JASON'S INTEREST...
...ALTHOUGH HIS NEW GUARDIAN IS MORE THAN WILLING TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY.
NO SLEEP AGAIN, SIR?
AFRAID NOT, ALFRED -- THE THIRD VICTIM IS GOING TO LIVE, THANK GOD.
HE JUST CAME OUT OF THE ANESTHETIC -- GORDON WANTS ME TO BE THERE WHEN THEY INTERVIEW HIM.
AND, AS FEARED, THE MUG OF COCOA IS SET ASIDE...
5

STILL, EVEN IF HIDING BEHIND A COWL IS FUTILE, IT CAN'T HURT TO TRY A QUICK EXIT...
I'D BETTER GET GOING-- MAKE UP THE CALORIES AT LUNCH...
BUT NO--NOW EVEN THE SULLENNESS IS DROPPED...

CAN I GO WITH YOU--?
AH, WELL...

HE TRIED.
I THINK NOT, JASON. YOU MAY BE BRUCE WAYNE'S WARD NOW--
--BUT THIS IS THE BATMAN'S BUSINESS.
BUT IF WE'RE GONNA BE A TEAM, SHOULDN'T I START--

I NEVER SAID WE'D BE A TEAM, JAY. I'M DEALING WITH A VICIOUS KILLER HERE, AND YOU'RE JUST A YOUNG BOY--
NO YOUNGER THAN ROBIN WAS WHEN YOU TWO BECAME PARTNERS!


THAT WAS DIFFERENT-- AND PERHAPS I MADE A MISTAKE THEN...
...ONE I DON'T CARE TO REPEAT.
DON'T TAKE IT HARD, MASTER JASON--HE'S MERELY LOOKING AFTER YOUR OWN BEST INTERESTS.
MAYBE, ALFRED... AND MAYBE NOT.

GOTHAM HOSPITAL...
--FINALLY GOT A VICTIM WHO CAN TELL US SOMETHING, STEVENS, BUT YOU SURE AIN'T TOLD US MUCH...
6

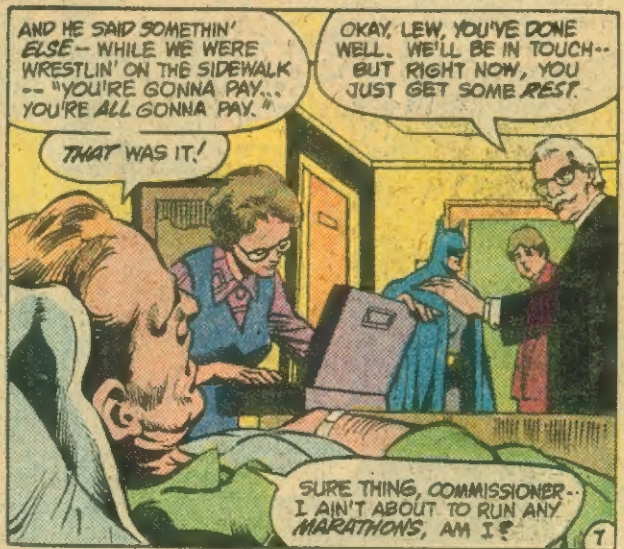
I'VE TOLD YA EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED, HIGGINS-- THE WHOLE THING SIX TIMES NOW.
EASY, LEW-- BUT DIDN'T YOU SEE ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR ATTACKER?
I TOLD YA, COMMISSIONER, IT WAS DARK ON THAT STREET--ALL'S I SAW WAS A BIG KNIFE...
LUCKY THING I GOT MY NIGHTSTICK UP IN TIME--AND EVEN LUCKIER THAT CAR CAME BY.

THAT'S IT, STEVENS-- SIX TIMES NOW...
...AND NOTHING NEW THE LAST FIVE TIMES.

ONE LAST THING-- WAS THERE ANY WARNING PRIOR TO THE ATTACK?
WHAT MADE YOU RAISE YOUR NIGHT-STICK?
THINK HARD--WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU REMEMBER BEFORE THE KNIFE?

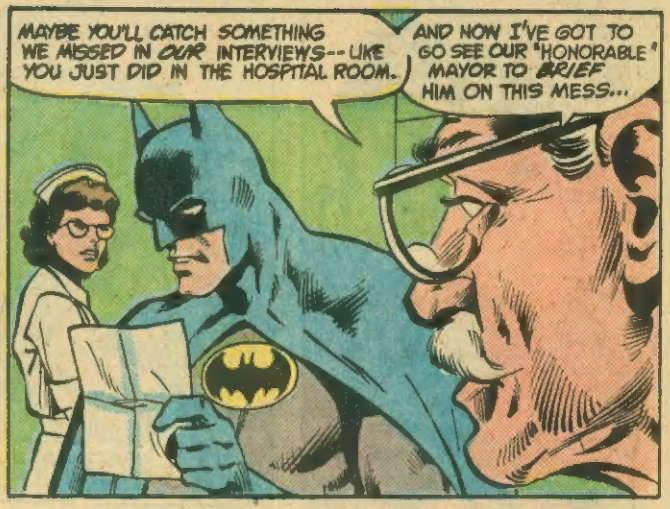
WELL, I...I SAID EVENIN' TO THE NEWSIE ON THE CORNER ... TURNED DOWN 78TH AND... AND...
WAIT! THERE WAS A WARNING!

A VOICE! YEAH-- HE SAID SOMETHING --SOMETHIN' LIKE... LIKE "JUSTICE MUST DIE"...


AND HE SAID SOMETHIN' ELSE-- WHILE WE WERE WRESTLIN' ON THE SIDEWALK -- "YOU'RE GONNA PAY... YOU'RE ALL GONNA PAY."
THAT WAS IT!
OKAY, LEW, YOU'VE DONE WELL. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH-- BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU JUST GET SOME REST.
SURE THING, COMMISSIONER-- I AIN'T ABOUT TO RUN ANY MARATHONS, AM I?

SEEMS TO BE THE OBVIOUS THEN--SOME CRIMINAL WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST COPS, SETTING UP HIS OWN PRIVATE SHOOTING GALLERY TO PICK THEM OFF ONE BY ONE--
--EXCEPT THIS BIRD PREFERS THE MORE PERSONAL TOUCH OF THE KNIFE.
I'VE GOT TWENTY PEOPLE GOING THROUGH THE MUG-BOOKS AND RECORDS, LOOKING FOR A KNIFE-FREAK RECENTLY RELEASED OR ESCAPED FROM PRISON.
SO FAR, NOTHING.
WHAT ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ANGLE OF CONNECTIONS? MAYBE THE VENDETTA REALLY IS PERSONAL, AND WHEN HE SAID "YOU'RE ALL GOING TO PAY"--

--HE WAS MERELY REFERRING TO THOSE COPS WITH WHOM HE'S HAD RUN-INS.
ALREADY THOUGHT OF THAT--ALERTED MY PEOPLE TO LOOK FOR SUSPECTS ARRESTED BY THE SLAIN OFFICERS. AND IF YOU'RE INCLINED TO HELP OUT, BATMAN--
--HERE'S A LIST OF ALL THE OFFICERS WHO'VE EVER SERVED AS PARTNERS TO THE THREE VICTIMS.


MAYBE YOU'LL CATCH SOMETHING WE MISSED IN OUR INTERVIEWS--LIKE YOU JUST DID IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM.
AND NOW I'VE GOT TO GO SEE OUR "HONORABLE" MAYOR TO BRIEF HIM ON THIS MESS...

NOT A FAVORITE PART OF MY DUTIES, ESPECIALLY THE WAY HILL'S BEEN R-RUH-RIDING ME LATELY...
SOMETHING WRONG, JIM?
HEADACHE... JUST TIRED, THAT'S ALL...

WELL, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF--AND ADD SOME EXTRA CARE.
REMEMBER--YOU'RE A COP TOO.
YOU JUST COVER YOUR OWN COWL, FRIEND--WHEN IT COMES TO LAW ENFORCERS, YOU'RE A BIGGER TARGET THAN ANY COP.
8

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

DRASTIC SITUATIONS MAY WELL DICTATE CHANGES OF STYLE, BUT FOR THE COWLED AVENGER OF THE NIGHT... DAY'S LONG LIGHT IS MORE THAN A TRIFLE UNCOMFORTABLE.
--THOUGHT OF ANYTHING TO ADD?
NOPE -- JUST THAT WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN, BATMAN. WE'LL CATCH THE FREAK -- AND AFTER WHAT HE DID TO JOE AND ERNIE AND LEW, I JUST HOPE I'M IN ON IT!
IT COLORS PERCEPTIONS PARADOXICALLY BLEAKER...
...AS IF THE SUN SHOULD WASH AWAY ALL THE HATE AND VENALITY EXPECTED FROM THE DARKNESS.
IT SEEMS NOT EVEN COPS ARE IMMUNE TO CYCLES OF VENGEANCE...
...PERHAPS ESPECIALLY NOT COPS.
AND SO, OPTING FOR THE SHADOWS WHENEVER POSSIBLE, HE INTERVIEWS SEVEN MORE ERSTWHILE PARTNERS OF THE DECEASED...
...LEARNING NOTHING GORDON HAS NOT ALREADY TOLD HIM -- EXCEPT, PERHAPS, THAT THE SPECTER OF THE BAT IS LESS IMPOSING BY DAYLIGHT.
FINALLY, AFTER NO SLEEP, NO FOOD, AND MUCH FRUSTRATION, NIGHT FALLS... MAKING HIM WELL AND WHOLE AND STRONG AGAIN.
AND, AS PARADOX WILL HAVE IT, THE LAST COP ON THE LIST IS THE MOST EARNESTLY CONCERNED...
--WRACKING MY BRAINS FOR SOME CLUE EVER SINCE THE PLAINCLOTHES BOYS TALKED TO ME, BUT THE ONLY THING I'VE COME UP WITH IS MAYBE ANOTHER NAME TO TRY...
JACK CRANE -- HE USED TO BE ONE OF THE GANG WITH THE REST OF US.
USED TO BE--?
UH... YEAH... HE'S, UH, RETIRED FROM THE FORCE NOW.
HE LIVES ON WEST END -- NUMBER 39.
9

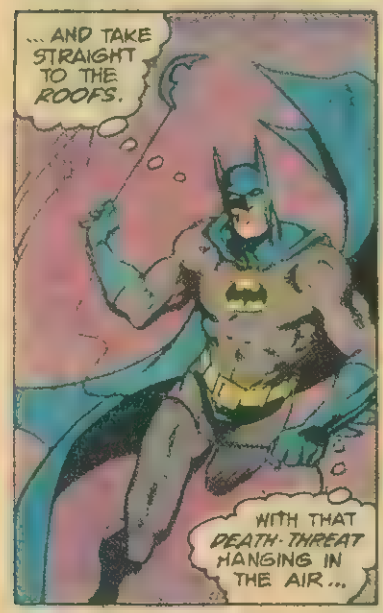
THANKS--I'LL CHECK IT OUT. TAKE CARE.
YEAH, I GUESS NO ONE'S A SACRED COW THESE DAYS--NOT EVEN A COP.
ESPECIALLY NOT A COP.
THAT THE BATMAN YOU WERE TALKING TO, FRANKIE?
YEAH--WEIRD GUY, EVEN GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
SURE AM GLAD HE'S ON OUR SIDE.
WELL, I'M OFF TO SOME HOME COOKIN'--YOU WALK A GOOD BEAT, HEAR?
BAIL BOND
WILL DO, FRANKIE--BE NICE TO THE WIFE!
THE NIGHT IS HARDLY FRIEND TO EVERYONE...
NO PARK
...AND, TOO, OF THOSE WHO DO TAKE SUCCOR WITHIN ITS DARK MANTLE, FEW SHARE THE ESSENCE OR INTENT OF THE BATMAN...
SOON, COP, SOON... SOON, COP, SOON... SOON, COP, SOON...

SHADOWS STRETCH.
BREEZE STILLS.
...SOON, COP, SOOOOON...
EH--? WHO'S THERE? COME ON OUT!
NO ANSWER.
A GOOD COP, HE BRAVES THE DARKNESS...
...WISHES FOR AN INSTANT HE'D WALKED ON...
...THEN IS BLINDED BY THE GLITTER OF COLD MOONLIGHT ON POLISHED STEEL...
OHHHHH...
...AND DIES...

THERE IS NO SCARLET IN DARKNESS...
BLOOD, NEVERTHELESS, DRIPS THICKLY.
VENGEANCE IS MINE--
--SAITH THE SKULL!
WEST END AVENUE ISN'T FAR... PROBABLY A DEAD END AS A LEAD, BUT I MIGHT AS WELL--
BLLLT
YES, JIM?
ANYTHING NEW?
I FINALLY GOT TO SEE MAYOR HILL--AFTER HE KEPT ME WAITING ALL DAY. I'M STILL AT CITY HALL NOW, BATMAN...
...BUT ONE OF MY MEN JUST BROUGHT ME SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT.
IT'S A MESSAGE FROM THE KILLER, LEFT ON MY OFFICE DOORSTEP--"ANOTHER PAWN OF FALSE JUSTICE DIES TONIGHT." AND IT'S SIGNED "SS."
ESS-ESS--? NAZIS?
I THOUGHT OF THAT, TOO, BUT ALL THREE VICTIMS WEREN'T EVEN BORN UNTIL WORLD WAR II ENDED.
RIGHT--BUT NO WORD ON ANOTHER HIT?
12

NOT YET--BUT YOU KNOW HOW LONG THE SHADOWS OF THIS CITY CAN HIDE A BODY. ANY IDEAS ON OUR NEXT MOVE?
I WAS GOING TO CHECK OUT ONE LAST LEAD--BUT MAYBE I SHOULD SKIP IT AND JUST START PROWLING THE STREETS.
WHATEVER YOU THINK BEST, BATMAN-- I'M GOING TO MY OFFICE TO WAIT IT. OUT. 'BYE.
CONSULTING WITH YOUR VIGILANTE FRIEND AGAIN, GORDON?
MAYOR HILL--!
YES--I WORK HERE, REMEMBER? AND IF YOUR IDEA OF WORK IS CALLING ON THE BATMAN TO HELP YOU EVERY TIME--
AGH-H!
GORDON! WHAT THE DEVIL'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
N-NOTHING -- JUST D-DIZZY FOR A SECOND THERE. YOU... YOU MUST HAVE STARTLED ME...
YOU KNOW, GORDON, YOU JUST GOT YOUR JOB BACK NOT LONG AGO-- DON'T BLOW IT WITH POOR HEALTH.
MEANING--EITHER YOU PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER FAST, OR I'LL BE FORCED TO TAKE STEPS.
SEVERE STEPS.
13

WEST END -- BUT JACK CRANE'S PROBABLY A LONGSHOT.
MIGHT AS WELL SAVE HIM FOR TOMORROW...


... AND TAKE STRAIGHT TO THE ROOFS.
WITH THAT DEATH-THREAT HANGING IN THE AIR...

WAIT A MINUTE -- SOMETHING THAT LAST COP SAID ABOUT NO SACRED COWS...
... NOT EVEN COPS...
AND SOMETHING ELSE HAS BEEN NAGGING AT ME -- HIS AWARENESS ABOUT CRANE NO LONGER BEING ON THE FORCE...

HMM... AS LONG AS I'M RIGHT HERE...

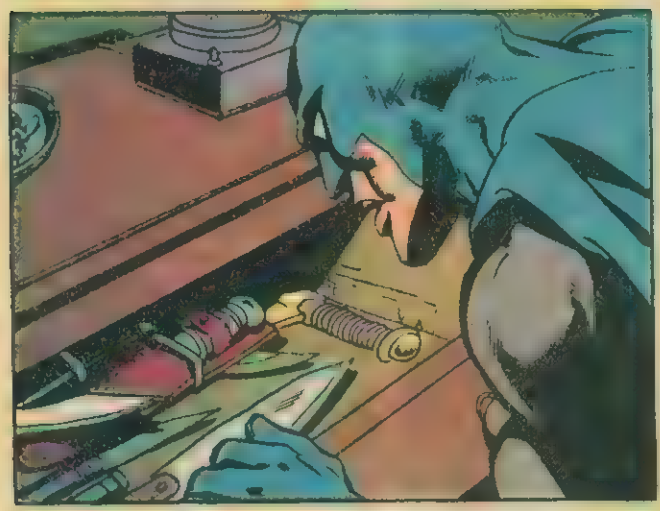
LIGHTS ON.
BUT NO ANSWER TO THE BUZZER.

TOK TOK

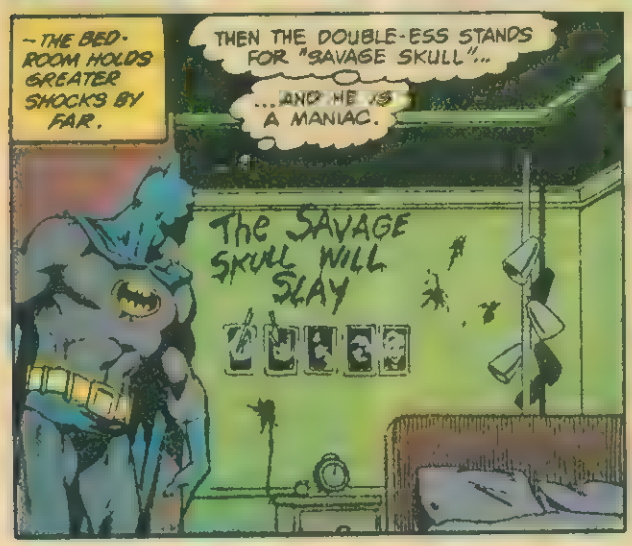
KREEEEK-K-K
CRANE--?
14

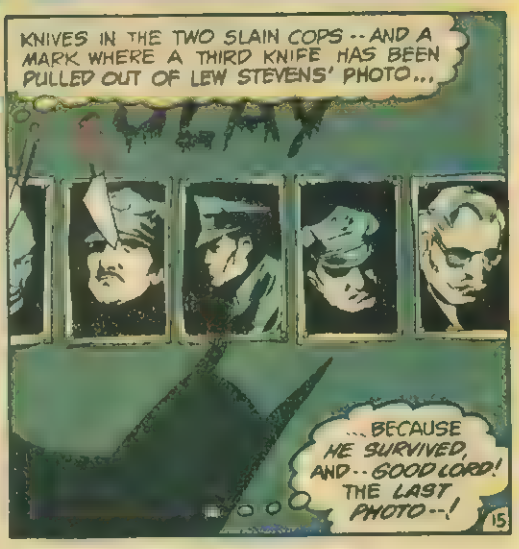
THE DOUBLE-ESS AGAIN....!

AND THAT OPEN DRAWER...



I'VE FOUND MY MAN...OR MY MADMAN.
AND THOUGH HIS DISCOVERY CHILLS HIM TO THE BONE--


--THE BEDROOM HOLDS GREATER SHOCKS BY FAR.
THEN THE DOUBLE-ESS STANDS FOR "SAVAGE SKULL"...
...AND HE IS A MANIAC.
The SAVAGE SKULL WILL SLAY


KNIVES IN THE TWO SLAIN COPS--AND A MARK WHERE A THIRD KNIFE HAS BEEN PULLED OUT OF LEW STEVENS' PHOTO...
SLAY
...BECAUSE HE SURVIVED, AND--GOOD LORD! THE LAST PHOTO--!

IT... IT'S GORDON.
JIM!
THE BLOODY KNIFE MISSES HIS SKULL BY INCHES.
I'M BACK TO FORM, BATMAN!
SWISS
LAY
CHUNK
THE FOURTH WAS A CLEAN KILL.
BUT THE NEXT TWO...
...YOU AND GORDON...
...THOSE KILLS ARE GOING TO BE NICE AND DIRTY.
YOU'RE THE SAVAGE SKULL-- YOU'RE JACK CRANE?
I AM THE AVENGER OF MISCARRIED JUSTICE -- AND THE EXECUTIONER OF THOSE WHO SERVE THAT BRAND OF JUSTICE!
I'D PLANNED TO SAVE YOU FOR LAST, BATMAN -- AFTER ALL THE REAL COPS...
IRONIC THAT BY FINDING ME AND THUS PROVING YOURSELF BETTER THAN THE REST--
--YOU'VE MERELY SPEEDED YOUR OWN DOOM!
AND THE SMILESS FACE LEERS.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

WELL, HE WASN'T RETIRED FOR AGE OR INFIRMITY...
HE'S TOO YOUNG AND FAST AND STRONG-- BUT THERE MUST BE SOME STORY BEHIND WHAT'S LEFT OF THAT FACE OF HIS...
AND SINCE GORDON IS NEXT ON HIS HIT LIST...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, NO NEED TO WHISTLE YOUR LID OFF...
TWEEE!
APPARENTLY YOU WEREN'T WATCHING IT, JIM.
BATMAN!
AND GLAD TO SEE YOU IN ONE PIECE. I CHECKED WITH YOUR OFFICE -- YOU SAID YOU'D BE THERE -- BUT THEY SAID YOU'D GONE HOME TO--
TO REST -- YES -- BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
I KNOW WHO THE SAVAGE SKULL IS-- SIT DOWN AND I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT.
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
--AND SO I RUSHED OVER HERE.
JACK CRANE! I NEVER WOULD HAVE DREAMED... BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.
NO WONDER WE KEPT COMING UP EMPTY--LOOKING FOR A CRIMINAL WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST COPS...
...WHEN ALL ALONG IT WAS A FELLOW COP WITH A GRUDGE.
BUT WHY DOES IT MAKE PERFECT SENSE, JIM? TELL ME ABOUT HIM!

CRANE WAS NEVER A GOOD COP, BATMAN...
OH, HE WAS EAGER AND AMBITIOUS ENOUGH -- TOO MUCH SO, AND THAT'S WHY I NEVER TRUSTED HIM.
IT ALL CAME TO A HEAD A YEAR-AND-A-HALF AGO -- WHEN HE CAME UPON A BURNING TENEMENT JUST AS A TEENAGER APPEARED IN THE DOORWAY HOLDING A GASOLINE CAN... OR AT LEAST CRANE SAID IT WAS A GAS CAN...
HE DREW HIS PISTOL AND CHASED THE KID BACK INTO THE BUILDING, INTO THE FIRE...
"HE CLAIMED THE KID WAS LYING IN WAIT FOR HIM INSIDE -- JUMPED OUT AND SLUGGED HIM FROM BEHIND WITH A BOARD.
"BEFORE HE WENT OUT, HE SAID HE SHOT THE KID ON REFLEX.
SNAP
"AND WHEN HE CAME TO, A PORTION OF THE BURNING CEILING FELL ON HIM. HE MADE HIS WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING -- BUT HIS FACE AND SCALP WERE LITERALLY ON FIRE..."

HE HAD TO ATTEND THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS HEARINGS WITH HIS HEAD COMPLETELY SWATHED IN BANDAGES, LIKE THE INVISIBLE MAN.
BASED ON HIS PAST RECORD OF, SHALL WE SAY-- ZEAL -- AND THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE BULLET'S ENTRY PATH AND SO ON -- HE WAS DRUMMED FROM THE RANKS FOR USING EXCESSIVE FORCE.
THE DUTY FELL TO ME PERSONALLY.
HE COMPLAINED BITTERLY, SAYING IT WAS A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE -- THAT HE SHOULD ACTUALLY BE AWARDED A MEDAL OF HONOR FOR SHOOTING THE "ARSONIST" IN SELF-DEFENSE...
BUT YOU SEE, BATMAN, NO GAS CAN WAS EVER FOUND -- AND WE HAD STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE THE KID WAS UTTERLY INNOCENT AND SIMPLY FLEEING THE FIRE.
SHOT IN THE BACK?
YES. ANYWAY, LAST I HEARD, CRANE TRIED TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH HIS OLD BUDDIES ON THE FORCE -- TWO OF WHOM ARE NOW DEAD, OF COURSE.
BUT THEY WERE REPULSED BY HIM -- NOT SO MUCH BY HIS BANDAGED FACE AS BY HIS BITTERNESS AND ACRIMONY. GRADUALLY, HE FADED AWAY... OR SO I ASSUMED.
A CASE SO CLASSIC IT'S ALMOST TOO PAT...
BUT HE WAS EXPELLED FROM THE FORCE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO--!
A HATE AS FIERCE AS HIS HAS A HIGH BOILING POINT, JIM.
IT SIMMERS AND SEETHES FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE THE PRESSURE FINALLY--

CONTINUED ON 35TH PAGE FOLLOWING

THEY RACE THROUGH NINE BLOCKS OF DESERTED DARKNESS...
WERE THE BATMAN NOT SUFFERING FROM NEAR EXHAUSTION, PERHAPS IT MIGHT END MORE SWIFTLY...
...BUT AS IT IS, THE SKULL IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN A CONSTANT GAP BETWEEN THEIR POUNDING BOOTS.
IT LEADS, FINALLY, TO THE GOTHAM RIVER QUAYS, WHERE THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE SLOWS TO A WARY PROWL...
A RUEFULLY IDIOTIC THOUGHT FLEETINGLY INTRUDES--ABOUT MISSED LUNCH AND LOST CALORIES...
AND THEN THE SAVAGERY IS UPON HIM--
--LASHING OUT LIKE JERKY LIGHTNING AND HOWLING BLOODY MURDER.
NO KNIFE NOW--BUT WHERE THERE IS A WILL TO CUT, THE CITY PROVIDES AMPLE RESOURCES.
PERHAPS, THEN, THE CRAVING FOR NOURISHMENT IS NOT SO IDIOTIC...
FOR HIS WITS HAVE BEEN DULLED--
SWIPP
--THOUGH, THANKFULLY, NOT HIS REFLEXES.
CHAT
FRAKT
22

NO! YOU'RE NOT EVEN A REAL COP! YOU CAN'T BEAT ME!
I'M A REAL COP--THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THE CITY!
I CAN'T LET YOU WIN!
I'LL KILL YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS!!
NO--!
...AND THEN THERE IS ONLY THE SPLASH... AND TROUBLED WATERS TOO DARK TO SHOW THE CERTAIN STAIN OF CRIMSON.
CRANE...
CRANE--!!
HIS SKULL SLAMS THE PILINGS WITH SAVAGE FORCE--THE SOUND OF A RIPE MELON STRIKING CONCRETE...
BATMAN--THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER SLAIN COP--I JUST PICKED IT UP ON THE RADIO! BUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
YOUR MEN WILL HAVE TO DRAG THE RIVER, JIM...
...HE HIT HIS HEAD... ON THE WAY DOWN.
AND POLICE COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON BLINKS THREE TIMES... HIS OWN SKULL SWIMMING IN VERTIGO...
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS--THE MAN-BAT! ON SALE MARCH 31ST!